

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Digital data which is to be encoded, for example, for application to a CD, is subjected to error correcting encoding and is arranged in codewords, with each 5 codeword containing data bytes and parity values. To copy protect such encoded digital data, the values of the data in a number of the data bytes in a selected codeword are altered. For audio data, for example, the values of the data bytes are altered to be representative of an unusually large magnitude, or click. It is also arranged that the alterations to the values of the data bytes and the number of data 10 bytes altered render the altered codeword uncorrectable. This means that on decoding, for example, in a CD player, the decoder flags the codewords as uncorrectable whereby the data is subjected to interpolation or other error concealment. The clicks are therefore not imposed on the audio as played. However, copies which are made from the copy protected encoded digital data will 15 generally be degraded.